

Listing of the Claims

The following Listing of the Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please add claims 21 and 22.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 10, and 16-17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising a container, a catheter handle having a first interlocking mechanism and at least one catheter element with a proximal end adapted for insertion in a urinary canal and an opposite distal end and having a second interlocking mechanism, the container having a ~~cavity~~ first section adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element and a second section adapted to accommodate a distal section of said catheter element and a zone between the first section and the second section that is adapted to exclude entry of said distal section of said catheter element into said first section, said catheter handle adapted to be interlocked with the catheter element via engagement of the first interlocking mechanism with the second interlocking mechanism of the catheter element so that the catheter handle and the catheter element are mechanically locked together, the catheter handle further including a sleeve section adapted to surround a portion of said container, said catheter handle is configured to be detached from said catheter element and from said container.
2. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is adapted to be attached to said container assembly.
3. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is shorter than said container or shorter than said catheter element.
4. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~a said distal section of said catheter element has at least one protruding part and wherein a proximal compartment of said a cavity of said container is adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter, said proximal compartment having~~ has a distal opening zone with providing an exclusion element adapted to exclude said distal section of said catheter element from entering said proximal compartment.
5. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein said exclusion element includes a radially inwardly extending protrusion in the cavity.

6. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein at least a part of said distal opening zone is flexible.
7. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a lubricating medium.
8. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said catheter element has a hydrophilic coating.
9. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim I, wherein said container includes a sealing means element for sealing said cavity.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a catheter device, said method comprising the steps of:
 - b) detaching the catheter handle from the container assembly and from the catheter element;
 - c) connecting the catheter handle to the catheter element in a different position from that in which the sleeve section surrounded the portion of said container so that the catheter handle and the catheter element are mechanically locked together via an interlocking mechanism; and
 - d) removing the catheter element from the container.
11. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said step of detaching the catheter handle includes removing the sleeve section from around the container portion and the step of connecting includes interlocking a proximal end of said handle with the distal end of said catheter element.
12. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the step of removing the catheter handle from the catheter element after catheterization.
13. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is adapted to be coupled with said assembly in two different configurations, movement of said catheter handle from a first configuration to a second configuration being effected by detaching said catheter handle from both said catheter element and said container.
14. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 13, wherein said sleeve section surrounds a portion of said container in said first configuration and is interlocked with said catheter element in a substantially linear arrangement therewith in said second configuration, said catheter handle when detached defining a third configuration in which said catheter handle is physically separate from both said container and said catheter element.

15. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein a distal end of said sleeve section is smaller in diameter than said protruding part of said catheter element and is adjacent a proximal side of said protruding part in said first configuration and adjacent a distal side of said protruding part in said second configuration.
16. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising: ~~a container having a cavity; at least one a~~ catheter element with a proximal end adapted for insertion into a urinary canal and an opposite distal end, and a container having a first section adapted to accommodate said proximal end of said catheter element and a second section adapted to accommodate said distal end of said catheter element and a zone between the first section and the second section that is adapted to exclude entry of a distal section of said catheter element into said first section~~said container cavity being configured to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element; and~~ a catheter handle having a sleeve section and being adapted, in a first configuration, to be attached to said container assembly with said sleeve section surrounding a portion of said container and, in a second configuration, to be interlocked with said catheter element via an interlocking mechanism so that the catheter handle and the catheter element are mechanically locked together in a substantially linear arrangement ~~therewith, said catheter handle being configured to be physically detached from said catheter element and from said container when being moved from said first configuration to said second configuration.~~
17. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly according to claim 16, wherein ~~a said~~ said distal section of said catheter element has at least one protruding part and wherein a proximal compartment of ~~said a cavity of said container~~ is adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter, said proximal compartment having a distal opening zone with an exclusion element adapted to exclude said distal section of said catheter element from entering said proximal compartment.
18. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein a distal end of said sleeve section is smaller in diameter than said protruding part of said catheter element and is adjacent a proximal side of said protruding part in said first configuration and adjacent a distal side of said protruding part in said second configuration.
19. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein said exclusion element includes a radially inwardly extending protrusion in the cavity.
20. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein at least a part of said distal opening zone is flexible.

21. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 16, wherein said catheter handle is configured to be physically detached from said catheter element and from said container when moved from said first configuration to said second configuration.
22. (New) A catheter assembly comprising:
- a catheter element having a proximal end adapted for insertion into a urinary canal;
 - a container having a first section adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter element and a second section adapted to accommodate a distal section of said catheter element and a zone between the first section and the second section that is adapted to exclude entry of said distal section of said catheter element into said first section; and
 - a catheter handle disposed around said second section of said container, said catheter handle detachable from said container and attachable to said distal section of said catheter element, said catheter handle further detachable from said catheter element.